

Flathead County Parks and Recreation Plan - Survey Comments
December, 2008

- 1 4x4 areas for off road vehicle use
- 2 A gymnasium is needed
- 3 A gymnasium is the most crucial addition this county needs!!!
- 4 A safe, rider-friendly system to promote bike commuting!
- 5 Access to water is critical. please consider the "value" of land in terms of ecosystem value to the region/watershed as well as financial value in making decision about which lands to acquire and which to dispose of.
- 6 Again, it would be great to have a large scale interconnected park system that is available in and around communities for quick access to run, bike, walk dogs, etc and to share with other users, that is both useful, aesthetically pleasing, and habitat for local wildlife. Such areas would be so valuable for use on a daily basis because of proximity to exercise or otherwise get out and enjoy mornings, noon, and evenings. It seems that Kalispell is not a particularly road friendly community to pursue these activities (running, biking, walking, etc). Other communities that have such areas show how beautiful and valuable such areas are and it seems that folks really get out and utilize them. I think it actually increases both the physical and mental fitness of the individuals of a community as well as the community as a whole!
- 7 Am so excited about the Wisconsin bike/pedestrian trail.
- 8 An expanded Herron Park which includes the 320 acres that Foys to Blacktail Trails is fundraising to purchase offers a historic opportunity. The potential exists for a vast trail system consisting of miles of well designed, interconnected, multiple use, year round trails which offer incredible vistas of the valley. Such a system would quickly become a regional attraction. A new road of lesser grade up to the Conservation Funds 320 acres would open the door to mile(s) of three-season ADA compliant trails and the potential for Herron Park to also become a Nordic skiing, snowshoeing and walking destination for thousands of valley residents and visitors during the winter months. Currently a void exists for winter recreation opportunities between Whitefish and Blacktail Mountain. An expanded Herron Park could fill this void for the next 20 years and beyond. Opportunities exists to accomplish this with very little county funding via cooperation with local Nordic clubs, Foys to Blacktail Trails, local business', local philanthropists, the state of Montana, the U.S. government, Montana Conservation Corps among others.
- 9 An indoor arena at Herron Park for equestrian use would be awesome!!!
- 10 Are there any other comments you would like to share with us regarding specific parks or recreation programs in Flathead County?
- 11 At this time, the county should not be even considering spending more money when they can't even fix the gravel roads, and do their snow plowing. People can not afford more taxes. And a parks maintenance district is just another way to tax us. And each year this parks maintenance district could be increased each year as more money is spent. being spent. How would you charge businesses in the county?

- 12 Average age in Lakeside area is 54. Kids should be considered, too, but multi-generational recreational areas would work better for year-around citizens. "Gated communities" should provide their own park facilities unless public access was assured by publicly owned paths and roads directly serving the preferably publicly-owned park.
- 13 Bigfork...we need pathway access to town along hwy 35.
- 14 Bitterroot Lake needs deeper, improved boat launches!
- 15 Bring back "shuffleboards, horseshoes, chess table setups"...encourage the older folk and you will see a "safer environment" for all.....
- 16 Church Slough at Wagner Lane needs river access - there is no place to launch a canoe or kayak that is public
- 17 Community gardens are important places throughout the country. They draw in a diverse audience and provide people with the opportunity to feed themselves. This is going to be very important in the future.
- 18 Compared to other areas, the Flathead does not do a good job with it's bike paths and the maintenance of them.
- 19 Complete overhaul of the horse stalls and addition of hitching posts at Herron Park.
- 20 Consider looking at the Boulder and Jefferson counties, Colorado parks and recreation plans for successful examples of open space utilization.
- 21 Continued support for the Smith Lake disc golf course near Whitefish Lake. This is a great area for disc golf, and we use it very often. I always try to pick up at least some garbage every time I go. Compared to other disc golf courses in the state, littering at Smith Lake is very minimal.
- 22 Create bike path between Whitefish and Kalispell Include Happy Valley trails in Master Planning and get DNRC to finish cleanup after logging. They are very well utilized trails created and maintained by the community
- 23 Current park system is greatly appreciated. Good job with what you do now.
- 24 Currently, I drive into the cities to go to the best parks- woodland in Kalispell, and whitefish city beach in whitefish. I think that the county needs a really big park where the public can ride bikes, see nature, access water. when I have lived in large cities, I always live near a big park. the county is not very far sighted. those little parks in subdivisions are useless. the people who mow the grass are the biggest users. It would be a great idea to buy up some of the farmland which is going for sale along the flathead and whitefish rivers. this land has flooded in the past, and will flood again. this land is also above 2 aquifers, one shallow and one deep. parkland would better protect our future water supply rather than dense development using skeptics. Missoula is a great example of a wonderful park along the river with great walking paths, bike trails, ponds, native plants, river access, recreation alternatives. let's do that along the flathead river between Columbia falls and evergreen! thanks for listening. Linda Christensen, Kalispell

- 25 Do not eliminate any existing parks, although some are small, they are vital to the neighborhoods in which they are located. Small children, seniors and the disabled are not going to travel to a large community park, they rely on the small, neighborhood park for their outdoor activity.
- 26 Do not surplus any Parks! They are valuable simply as open space... much less recreation and youth activities...
- 27 Don't let our parks take a back seat to development dollars. there must be a way to assess fees to developers that will help with our parks. developers benefit greatly with giving little or nothing back.
- 28 Empire estates has land that the city owns supposedly that is just sitting their that should be developed into a little playground or something.
- 29 Families searching for housing and schools will choose communities that provide simple parks. More small parks as opposed to fewer large ones. If a family or individual is willing to drive, there is plenty of space. But what are we doing to encourage walking to recreate?
- 30 Forming the volunteer advisory committees has been wonderful. I'd like to see a way to use volunteer groups to help with park improvements, maintenance, etc.
- 31 Foy's Lake Park could be a gem but it is neglected. Between the garbage, weeds, lack of maintenance and lack of enforcement of some simple rules it's become a place to avoid. If I could plead for one thing, I would ask that the hill adjacent to the beach be stabilized (I envision a series of a couple tiers and short retaining walls and introduction of sand on the tiers and beach to provide a more suitable sitting area.) I am sure there are experts who could come up with a great plan with input from the public. Thanks for your work!
- 32 Good foot and bike pathways are something every community that has them brags about and whose citizens consistently rank as an important feature of their community. An example is Anchorage, Alaska. Investments in this area are virtually guaranteed to be winners.
- 33 Great base of volunteers.
- 34 Having lived in the northeast area o Kalispell before Lawrence park was developed (starting with Friends for Lawrence Park) and then seeing how much people enjoy+ use it and how it has improved the whole neighborhood makes me strongly endorse neighborhood parks and pathways.
- 35 Heron Park is an important part of this community. If there is anyway for the county to help Foys to Blacktail purchase land extending the pathway that would be good.
- 36 Herron Park is a fantastic area, efforts should be made to continue to maintain and upgrade the park
- 37 Herron Park is the best park in Flathead County and provides a unique location for hikers, cross-country skiers, bicyclists, dog owners, and equestrians that other towns just don't have available. I would like to see the county maintain Herron Park above all other parks.
- 38 I absolutely love Herron Park and would like it to continue to be a wonderful place to spend time in the outdoors doing a multitude of activities.

- 39** I am unsure of where to view a map of all the county parks and rec facilities and pathways... Are there connections to City/State lands as well? The distinction between city, county, state and federal lands is very frequently lost on residents - perhaps a joint committee could better educate the public about these resources and steer plans for future development.
- 30** I am very concerned about the future of the valley. Once the bike path on Wisconsin Ave. in Whitefish was constructed, the results were instant--families walking with strollers, bicyclists, walkers, and finally, access to the north part of town that is SAFE! Walking and biking on some of the valley's roads is dangerous and you are subjected to intense diesel fumes. Build walkways and access to public lands and you will see all of the valley communities become more connected. We need to think of how the valley will look in 30 years and I hope it doesn't look like one highway connected subdivision. I am happy to see my taxes go up to pay for it because it is the most valuable investment my property and my lifestyle. Thank you!
- 41** I am very concerned about the state of the trees in the city parks. It is obvious that many of the mature maples are drought distressed. it would be a shame to see the city lose these on account of lack of a budget for irrigation.
- 42** I appreciate that the county is putting efforts into this area. We all know why we live here and it has nothing to do with the box stores moving to the valley. Thank you for your efforts.
- 43** I appreciate the new interest Flathead County is showing in the parks and rec programs
- 44** I believe parks & visual buffers for new subdivisions should be paid for by the developers, not the taxpayers.
- 45** I believe the priority should be updating and maintaining existing parks.
- 46** I believe the youth programs are okay but could be expanded less money used in miles of bike paths that 1or2% of the residents use
- 47** I did not understand question 9
- 48** I enjoy the small parks with playgrounds.
- 49** I feel the county parks and rec. should get out of the recreation programming business.....stick strictly to resource management.....
- 50** I feel it is wrong for the maintenance workers to abuse our tax dollars by littering the parks with their cigarette butts while they are over mowing the lawns. if they mowed less we would also save money.
- 51** I hope the Open Lands bond passes but I do worry about the management of the money.
- 52** I know you are very short handed but I've noticed that Woodland Park has more litter and garbage than I've every seen before, especially during the Summer months.
- 53** I love Heron park and frequent it often on horseback. County does a great job of maintaining it. Hopefully Foy's to Blacktail will be successful obtaining connecting trails!

- 54 I love Herron Park!!!
- 55 I love the bike paths to/from Helena Flats Elem.
- 56 I really enjoyed the type of parks available in Spokane like Manito and riverside, it would be nice to see something like that in our community
- 57 I really feel Foys Lake swimming area needs to be improved. I would vote for increased taxes for that.
- 58 I strongly support the efforts of the Foys to Blacktail Trails group in their efforts to expand the potential of Herron Park, connecting it to Blacktail Ski Area. Any way the County can assist in this process would be a huge asset to all residents of the community.
- 59 I suggest that you improve the boat launch facilities on Bitterroot Lake. Better access will enhance our enjoyment of the lake, enhance our property values, and improve the Marion economy. The current launch sites are too shallow and difficult to use safely.
- 60 I think city and county parks are an important part of the community (playgrounds, public space, sports, and plants and nature). I regularly use the Eastside (or Northridge parks for tennis, Lawrence Park for running/walking, Herron Park (for running), and Woodland for walking, school trips, and ice skating! I am most passionate about any new trail systems that help connect business and residential areas and schools for bikers and walkers.
- 61 I think it's important to provide a place where people can come together publicly and enjoy this beautiful place that we live. Providing activities and a safe environment while protecting public lands and providing access to public waterways should be the priority.
- 62 I think the Herron Park equestrian area is a very good park. The development to continue to blackmail would be very beneficial as well. The people with horses need places like this. Even people without horses enjoy the area.
- 63 I think the older part of Lawrence park would be a good location for a dog park.
- 64 I think we need to look for opportunities for a dog park in the Kalispell area, as a compliment for the one being built in Whitefish.
- 65 I think we need to think of the future of our children and what kind of sports opportunities are available to them here in Lakeside. I think the addition of tennis courts at Ben Williams park would a wonderful addition. It would give those children an opportunity to learn to play a wonderful sport in their hometown. Not to mention the physical benefits.
- 66 I use the "Pig Farms" area and it would be great to have an area like this as a county park, similar to Heron Park but more centered in the valley.

- 67** I would like to see improvements done to Greenacres park at Haven Court. It needs some new swings, slide and climbing equipment for the kids. Either a ball field or tennis court would be nice also. Currently it contains some old swings probably installed in the 1970's that are substandard. Thank you Greenacres west homeowner
- 68** I would like to see the pathway go from Whitefish to Co. Falls. I would like to see more adult swing sets in the parks (or the larger ones like they used to have, that swing out further).
- 69** I would like to see the untapped potential of boating access developed on the slough along Lower Valley Road. It is close-in and has wonderful fishing. You can't launch anything much bigger than a canoe at the few unofficial sites that have been created by the public along the slough. As it is now, unless you own property along the slough and create your own private launch site, you can't put in a modest size boat from a trailer. Most of us don't have the size of boat needed to safely fish on Flathead Lake. The sloughs present a safe and enjoyable alternative for boaters. A decent launch with a bit of trailer parking would greatly enhance the reputation of the Flathead as a recreation paradise.
- 70** I would love to rent space in a community center to teach my Jazzercise classes. I am concerned that so few women with children exercise regularly and consistently. I would like to expand our Jazzercise program, but finding a good, affordable facility is difficult.
- 71** I would love more children's programs and activities for the family similar to the music in the park series. Even in the winter. Indoor usable facilities for events such as these would be fantastic. There is no where to go in the winter with children.
- 72** I would stress acquiring land for parks and pathways when it is available, even if development has to be postponed. The county did not purchase lake front at Foys lake when it was available and now that valuable recreation opportunity is lost forever.
- 73** If more bike paths are going to be brought into community bicycle safety and traffic enforcement is going to need to be emphasized a lot more. My personal experience with folks on bicycles is that they are unaware of traffic laws and safety issues, i.e. lights at night, etc.
- 74** If there is to be a dog park there should be a dog park other parks i.e.. Herron Park need to enforce leash laws. Woodland and Lawrence have become damn frightening for parents and we now avoid them because of the type of people that hang out there the language the gang like atmosphere. NOT for families. The day we tried to pick up trash and I luckily stopped my son from picking up a used condom was enough for me. I feel these parks are not for families, no laws are enforced unless the police are called. I don't want to spend my rare time with my children calling the cops when all I wanted was a picnic!!!
- 75** If you could develop a system of trails that connected Whitefish, Columbia Falls and Kalispell without once being in danger of getting hit by a car you win. :-)
- 76** Improve access at Bitterroot Lake.
- 77** Improve boat access to Bitterroot Lake near Marion. The current launch sites are too shallow for many boats to launch safely.

- 78** Improve boat access/ramp area at Bitterroot lake. Too shallow and narrow. Include adjacent picnic area and dock.
- 79** Improve the boat launch facilities at Bitterroot Lake. They are too shallow.
- 80** In general, maintain existing facilities, like improve the boat ramp at Bitterroot lake. Also make new subdivisions/developers set aside property for parks and trails.
- 81** In the communities I've visited that had well-designed path systems that connected together well, the paths were very popular and heavily used. (e.g. Seattle area, San Francisco Bay Area, Helena). I saw lots of families and people of all ages cycling together, enjoying each other's company while getting fit.
- 82** It is a crime to have such limited public access to Flathead lake. For boating, swimming, kayaking. This should be a top priority. Thanks for asking
- 83** It is a great way to promote health and wellness in our community.
- 84** It may be a city thing, but help getting the undone links along Whitefish River completed.
- 85** It would be helpful if there were signs designating park areas, and a number to report park vandalism such as fires and park destruction.
- 86** Keep in mind that the city is now about 13 miles long which is counterproductive if you want folks to drive less. Ensure ped/bike trails are part of all future development; open up residential areas to each other and across rivers to get people to shopping/medical/work and to encourage less driving
- 87** Keep it simple to reduce costs and maintenance
- 88** Keep moving ahead.
- 89** Keep Potazny Park available for youth sports.
- 90** Keep up the good work making the outdoors more user friendly for more people.
- 91** Keep up the good work with parks like the Conrad Complex! Expanded or better organized use of the Flathead public lake access points would be much appreciated and improve safety.
- 92** Keep up the good work
- 93** Leisure Island needs much more attention - maintenance, law enforcement, designated parking, etc. And there is a huge need for low cost meeting room space for recreational non-profit group meetings. These groups are every bit as recreational as specific sports groups, but have no "fields to play in."
- 94** Local volunteers have done a lot to improve their parks. Subdivision residents do not want their parks open to the public, especially if they have paid to develop and maintain the parks
- 95** Love, love love Herron Park

- 96** Lower cost to tax payers
- 97** Maintain what we have, less cultural programs. The economy is tight-no new money. Work with tax payers, not against them.
- 98** Make available dirt mountain biking areas -- not paved (!!!). Set aside areas in national forests from logging, and motorized vehicles to create long and continuous dirt trails that include loops and varied routes, and do NOT go through logged areas. Maintain those areas by controlling unauthorized access with active enforcement against kids with motorized vehicles, and by clearing blowdown periodically. Much like Pig Farm (Kuhns area), which is a wonderful example of what we need a lot more of. E.g. extend access in Kuhns area, and provide areas around Talley Lake, and up to and around Haskill Basin, north on Trumbull Creek, and Happy Valley, and Beaver Lake area, on the far east side of the valley along Columbia and Doris Mountains, in addition to the unhikable and unbikable motocross course that Columbia Mtn trail has become. Increase access around Lake Blaine, including Strawberry Mtn. And all that's just off the top of my head. It's important to not allow motorized access to biking areas, as they destroy what they use. Shared access including motorized access isn't possible, as no one else can use what they use after they ruin it. And please respect that only a serious hiker or mountain biker can understand that. Naturally non-hikers and non-mountain bikers, and especially motocross users cannot understand the extent of the damage, or see that hikers and mountain bikers do not use those areas.
- 99** Make biking safe for kids and those adults that won't ride a bike because they are afraid of getting run over by speeding traffic or heavy traffic on narrow roads. People want to get out and enjoy this valley but it is not a bike-friendly valley.
- 100** Make it happen sooner than later, it seems to take a very long time to get rec/ped trails approved, Wisconsin bike trail took forever! Anyhow good job on what has been done but compared to other areas I have lived projects of this nature were approved and constructed relatively quickly. Here we have a bigger tax base yet community projects of this nature seem to take longer, much longer.
- 101** Maximize the use of resources available for maintenance of existing facilities before trying to acquire more ground to develop
- 102** More coordination with community groups and schools to work together to improve present parks and establish new connecting pathways.
- 103** More parks!! The rec programs are great, but I don't participate. I use the park 4 times a week to jog, all seasons, and enjoy riding my bike wherever I can.
- 104** Most of state lands are either beamed or gated to keep out motorized vehicles, it's disgusting!!
- 105** My family and friends are eternally grateful for the trails at Herron Park and the surrounding area. Thanks to the private land owners who let us ride there. It would be wonderful and a true treasure for many generations if the Foys to Blacktail trail can be preserved for everyone to enjoy. I am not against 4-wheelers or dirt bikes either. The horses can hear them coming and get less scared than with silent bicycles popping up. Thanks, Shawna McCollam-Floyd 568 Batavia Lane, Kalispell, 59901

- 106** My husband and I bike or walk to work nearly everyday. We live in Somers and he bikes to Flathead high school, even in bad weather. We would love to see that trail continued all the way to town, AND maintained/plowed in winter. Thanks so much! -Fords
- 107** Need increased lake access with sufficient parking. Pursue obtaining fish hatchery between Lakeside & Somers and make it a public park with lake access and parking.
- 108** Need more soccer fields in Columbia Falls. More programs in general in Columbia falls. Not much for kids to do here. Programs for teens.
- 109** Neighborhood property should be more involved or encouraged to maintain parks in their areas. Volunteer programs are not encouraged or promoted adequately. Public service announcements using local media outlets are an easy method to get people and businesses involved. Individuals or businesses would benefit from the positive publicity and/or tax credits that could be offered. The county could provide guidance and possibly equipment resources when appropriate. If this is already going on, I am not aware of it.
- 110** New parks are great but where will the money come from? Concentrating on improving and connecting our existing parks is more realistic I think. Half a park or a dead end path, not finished, while compromising existing park maintenance is a waste.
- 111** Off-leash dog parks are a high priority
- 112** On the right track looking at interconnecting paths thanks
- 113** Only think there should be something for new park areas in new neighborhoods.
- 114** Open space, with restrooms is all I need. No organized sports, bike paths, dog areas. Just some nature and peace and quiet away from the cars, boats and sports. I want to see the flowers and hear the birds and get away from the computer and the phone. Thanks!
- 115** Parks and bike pathways help create a sustainable community. Let's encourage them for the health benefits provided and relationships they build
- 116** Please consider restricting dog access to the small park on Whitefish lake- West Lakeshore Drive. We would prefer no access from land, as this parcel has been used for 40 years that I have lived near it.
- 117** PLEASE provide a dog park with wide-open, fenced in areas for dog-walkers to let dogs run - including small pond or lake for swimming, retrieving! Thank you!
- 118** Please put in more walk/bike paths.

- 119** PLEASE remove bicycle barricades from bicycle path at Somers beach. It was paid for using CTEP \$, which is intended for bikes. It's absurd to block off a bike/pedestrian path paid for with federal transportation fund money for benefit of kayakers and beach goers. Cyclists pose no danger there (we can all get along).
- 120** Preserving our area's beauty, air and water should always be a priority!
- 121** Primary focus should be on maintenance of existing facilities before expansion plans are executed. Tax payers are very weary of continued tax increases to promote acquisition of new park areas and expanding existing programs.
- 122** Programs are great, facilities are lacking
- 123** Promote more volunteerism to compensate for declining funds.
- 124** Provide Mutt Mitt dispenser for dog owners!
- 125** Question #2- G. Obtain approval to release developments to sell park land and use the proceeds for local parks.
- 126** Question #6- park budget proportionate to revenues Provide money for maintenance and development
- 127** question#11: Ultimate Frisbee I think our taxes should pay for parks, activities etc. And I am willing to pay more in taxes to do so Most everything in this survey is a viable and important part of a good park system.
- 128** Quit with the parks & recs programs that are losing money and start investing that in our EXISTING parks.
- 129** River access: The new Church Slough access is not yet an access! The only access to the slough is on adjacent private property. I would like to use the access and not abuse adjacent landowners' rights.
- 130** Save the land for all to use. Use the old dump site in West Glacier for a garden space for all.
- 131** Since all parks require dogs be on leashes, we really need a dog park so dogs can get exercise off leash.
- 132** SOMERS ACCESS NEEDS TO BE EXPANDED. MAYBE PARKING ACROSS THE STREET.
- 133** Tennis Courts in Bea Williams park
- 134** Thank You for all your hard work.
- 135** Thank you for allowing my input, in this time of a poor economy I realize it is difficult obtaining funds but in the long run green space, bike/walking paths/ parks help make communities desirable places to live. These things I believe pay for themselves in the long run with businesses wanting to be located in communities that are pleasant to live in and it gives our future generations open space to enjoy. Our open space is quickly being gobbled up. I notice how many people enjoy the bike/walking paths around Butte and Great Falls. Build them and people will use them.

- 136** Thank you for being interested in our opinions.
- 137** Thank you for taking the time to access what the public wants not just special interest groups
- 138** Thank you!
- 139** Thank you.
- 140** Thank you. Parks, forest , trails and open space planning is important economic development. For example, last year out of state visitors to Flathead County spent \$297 million according to the institute for tourism and recreation research at the u of m. Their primary reasons for visiting were scenery and recreation. This work helps our economy and the well being of our residents. Providing safe alternative bike and pedestrian commuting will cut down on traffic and our dependence on energy. Build more trails!
- 141** Thanks for caring enough to ask the citizens. Good luck!
- 142** Thanks for doing a survey.
- 143** Thanks for the job you're already doing
- 144** Thanks for the opportunity to participate in a community survey. It is the right time to start designating space for parks and paths...even if they sit 'fallow' for a few years. Every community with good parks and connected by well planned paths is a strong community both economically and socially.
- 145** Thanks for the survey. This was a good idea and I appreciate the opportunity for input.
- 146** The County needs to begin requiring developers to contribute more to park and rec infrastructure.
- 147** the County needs to take in to consideration the economy & how new taxes would hurt residents on fixed incomes or lower salary range. Hitting residents over and over with higher taxes will chase locals away.
- 148** The easement of the Foys to Blacktail trails are VERY important for runners, hikers, dog walkers, bicyclists and horseback riders. They need MORE help from the county!
- 149** The few rails to trails opportunities available in this valley are highly used. Making a long term plan to interconnect these trails to allow for bike commuting would benefit traffic patterns and provide recreational opportunities.
- 150** The new sites in the city are great- who is keeping care of them? County should set up program for maintaining walk ways though volunteers, or summer youth help.
- 151** The option held by the Community Foundation for a Better Bigfork to purchase the 200 acres owned by PacifiCorp expires within 2 years. Funds must be made available and organized contact be made to pursue this opportunity.

- 152** The parking at the park on Shawnee Dr in Bigfork needs to be enlarged. People park on the road which blocks the road to traffic.
- 153** The playground equipment at Woodland and Lawrence parks are in serious need of repair.
- 154** There are a multitude of available areas for recreation in our area without additional parks
- 155** There are potentially nice parks in the valley that have playground equipment, but they are not maintained and are old and outdated. Specifically, woodland and Lawrence park have small areas and are more developmentally appropriate for older children. There is a real need for playground equipment/swings (especially infant swings) in Kalispell that are designed for children under the age of 5. I would like to see more focus on the parks we have (updating and maintaining) as well as smaller neighborhood parks.
- 156** There doesn't seem to be a well developed site for county rec programs. more advertising of rec programs would be nice.
- 157** there is a need for better, improved maintenance programs
- 158** Think BIG - we need more Woodland and Lawrence Park type parks. Access to Lake Blaine should be a priority!
- 159** This is a great endeavourer for the future of your park systems
- 160** This is not a good time in our economy to be expanding or starting any new projects of this sort. Many can not afford the property taxes as they are. Look to private funding, if wanted.
- 161** This survey is entirely focused on "more" which makes it miss the mark and will somewhat bias the results. Looking at our recent bond issues, we have a VERY clear message from FC taxpayers--it is all we can do to take care of what we have, much less "more." Unfortunately, this survey makes that viewpoint impossible to express/tabulate. This respondent feels strongly that the "more" should be limited only to the long-term planning focus, with the clear recognition that unless there are actual windfalls, amenities will be gradually added (i.e., parks as subdivisions come on, etc.) as they are truly affordable from existing resources (with long-term maintenance provided for), rather than mistakenly interpreting (due to the survey's format) that survey respondents might be willing to pay for more NOW. We don't--we absolutely can't afford it. Parks are an important "nice-to-have"--but they are still a "nice-to-have." Our tax burden is taking big bites out of the "niceties" for most of us and FC voting records depict that in neon lights. Let's please take that message seriously.
- 162** This work is important.....it should be a part of the regular budget except for special projects
- 163** To me, at this time it is critical to acquire land and make a multi-use trail system that connects our communities with obvious evidence (i.e.. group use in the towns, pavilions etc., trails connecting from these areas) as to where community is to in effect prevent sprawl.
- 164** Try not to lose what we've got and keeping it growing wherever possible.

- 165** Upgrading play equipment in neighborhood parks would be great. Why waste the space you already own with equipment that is either unsafe for younger children or geared toward older kids that don't really play at the park anymore.
- 166** Water access is needed with...ADEQUATE PARKING and MAINTAINCE
- 167** We are grateful for the new tennis courts at the parks on Lawrence and at 7th and 10th. thank you thank you
- 168** We are seniors, (my answers reflect this -- I answered as to how we are personally affected by the park) and walk in Woodland Park regularly. It is a beautiful park, well used in the summer, with so many good things about it. However it seems to need more maintenance, which most likely is due to budget problems, I would guess. I'm not that familiar with what all would be included in the county parks/recreation programs. We have only been living in Kalispell for 1 and 1/2 years -- before that we lived on Flathead Lake, and would bring in visiting family to the "duck park" as the kids would call it. Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this survey. In the survey I only answered as affecting myself and my husband, not visiting friends and family.
- 169** We believe the Number one priority should be acquiring land for future parks, especially lake and river access points while such land is still available. A growing population will overcrowd existing access points, and parks. Acquiring land or easements for connecting existing pathways or trails currently being developed should be the 2nd priority.
- 170** We can't afford any additional taxes. We pay taxes now to support the county services. If no funding available then we do without!
- 171** WE Could use a gymnasium
- 172** We could use a new gymnasium.
- 173** We feel the county needs to look at the maintenance of current parks and open spaces and bring them to a higher standard. Adding more of anything to maintenance will only bog the system down more and the maintenance issues will be even worse.
- 174** We need a public shooting range! improve fishing access/boat launch at Little Bitterroot
- 175** We need an indoor recreation/gym facility. The weather in the Flathead demands it.
- 176** We need an indoor recreation/gym facility. The weather in the Flathead demands it.
- 177** When you developed the swimmers/picnic area next to the large boaters area in Somers, you failed to put in toilets. It is too far for parents with young children to walk to the toilet that is at least a block away. It is also a stretch to think seniors can walk that far with a full bladder. What do you think happens in those heavily used waters in the summer? We all know the water is grossly contaminated. You should at least put in a few "honey buckets" in the summer as a temporary solution.

- 178** Would like to have an area I can walk my dog to so he and I can have a dip in Whitefish Lake, unless you own land or break the city beach rules, there is no approved area within walking distance of town. Other than that, parks look great, I'm proud of our area, keep up the good work.
- 179** would very much support a unified valley wide trail corridor system. the time has come.
- 180** Yes. we love Herron park! especially the equestrian facilities.
- 181** You are doing a great job with limited resources. Thank you!
- 182** You don't maintain the parks you have.